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REMARKS

The office action of August 23, 2006 has been carefully considered.

Objection has been raised to the disclosure based upon grammatical errors on page 3, and these errors have now been corrected. The grammatical error in claim 4 has been corrected by cancellation of claim.

Claims 1, 2 and 7 - 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Kramer et al.

Claims 1-13 have now been replaced by a new set of claims 14-26, which are substantially of the same scope as claims 1-13, but which are written in proper form for US practice.

In Kramer, a sensing device is disclosed for measuring various joints of human body. The device disclosed is a linkage-based sensing structure comprising a plurality of rigid links, interconnected by revolute joints with parallel axes which make the entire linkage-based sensing structure "flexible" in the corresponding plane. Each joint angle is measured by resistive bend sensor, or other goniometer, attached to the rigid links.

Kramer discloses, for example in Fig. 7b, a constraint generator formed by rigid elements 704, connected by hinges 705, with a sensor attached thereon, so that the sensor is obliged to move in plane 706. The device above disclosed can be used for measuring joints of the body such as shoulders which can be considered a "ball and socket joint" having three rotational degrees of freedom, using *a plurality* of rigid links having a common axis for measuring each degree of freedom. In particular, in Figure 11 of Kramer et al, five sets of rigid links are used in order to measure the movements of the shoulder.

According to the invention, each sensor is associated with one constraint generator, similar to Fig. 7B of Kramer.

However, according to the invention, each constraint generator is *a flexible elongated element* having low flexional stiffness in a first plane, and high flexional stiffness in a second plane orthogonal to the first plane. This is not the structure disclosed by Kramer et al, in which no single element is flexible, but *a plurality of hinged, individually rigid, elements* are required to achieve overall flexibility.

As Kramer et al does not disclose or suggest *a flexible elongated element* having a longitudinal axis with a low flexional stiffness in a first plane passing through said axis, and a high flexional stiffness in a second plane orthogonal to said first plane and passing through the axis, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The allowability of claims 3-6 has been noted.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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